

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation for loading a loading space with piece goods, which preferably have an at least partly deformable piece good surface, the installation~~ A device for loading shapeable piece goods to a loading space, the device comprising:

a feed means ~~device on which the piece goods can be singly fed~~ for feeding piece goods;

5      a loading space having an opening on at least one side;

a shaping means for receiving the piece goods, whereby said shaping means establishes the piece goods in a predeterminable shape or orientation;

a transfer means for transferring the piece goods from said feed means into interior of said loading space; and

10      a separating means for separating the piece goods from said shaping means and depositing said piece goods into said loading space

~~a transfer device to which the piece goods can be transferred from the feed device and by means of which the piece goods can be brought into the interior of the loading space;~~

15      ~~at least one shaping means through which the piece goods can be brought into a predeterminable shape or orientation, wherein the transfer device transfers the piece goods, whilst maintaining a shape of the piece goods given by the shaping means, individually or groupwise with the aid of an, in each case, horizontally movable loading means into the interior of the loading space which is open on at least one side, and wherein a separating unit is provided which separates the piece goods from the loading means, accompanied by the~~  
20      ~~retraction thereof, and deposits said piece goods in the loading space.~~

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said transfer ~~device provides means~~ is a vertically adjustable conveyor on which ~~the loading~~ said shaping means with the piece goods is linearly movable in a substantially horizontal conveying direction into the interior of ~~[[the]]~~ said loading space ~~open on at least one side~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ complete said loading space is located on a lifting table.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said separating unit ~~can be brought into~~ is in engagement with at least one piece good of the piece goods located within a ~~loading~~ said shaping means and wherein ~~the loading~~ said shaping means is linearly movable counter to the conveying direction relative to the separating unit.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said feed ~~device means~~ is ~~constructed at least zonally as~~ a motor-driven linear conveyor and has ~~[[an]]~~ an accumulating conveyor as an end section ~~constructed as an accumulating conveyor~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 6, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said

accumulating conveyor ~~[[has]]~~ comprises a stop face oriented transversely to the conveying direction of the feed device.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 6, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said accumulating conveyor provides a sliding or rolling plane for the piece goods, ~~which is~~ said sliding or rolling plane being flush or lowered with respect to the bearing surface of the linear conveyor.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to ~~one of the~~ claim 1, wherein ~~[[a]] transfer device~~ said feed means ~~is provided on which the piece goods fed on the feeds device are~~ the piece goods individually or groupwise ~~transferred into in each case one~~ into said loading shaping means.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 9, wherein ~~if the piece goods are to be reoriented the~~ said transfer device means has a forklike construction and bilaterally at least partly encloses the piece goods on ~~[[the]]~~ an accumulating conveyor and by a tilting process and/or a translatory process transfers same into ~~a loading~~ said shaping means to reorient the piece goods.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 9, ~~wherein there is~~ a further comprising a making ready unit for ~~empty loading shaping~~ means that contain no piece

goods, ~~[[which]]~~ said making ready unit cyclically ~~[[moves]]~~ moving forward empty ~~loading~~ shaping means and ~~orients~~ orienting the same with respect to ~~[[the]]~~ said transfer device means.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said loading shaping means ~~are constructed~~ is in the form of a U-shaped longitudinal profile with at least one open front side ~~or in plate form~~.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 12, wherein the U-shaped longitudinal profile has two spaced longitudinal profile arms with a clearly defined mutual spacing.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 13, wherein the spacing between the two longitudinal profile arms is such that a piece good located within ~~the loading~~ said shaping means is given a mechanical pressure on its surface by the two longitudinal profile arms and wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said loading means ~~[[have]]~~ has a length corresponding to the length of the accumulating conveyor.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to ~~one of the~~ claim 4, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said transfer device means ~~provides~~ is a loading unit, ~~which is~~ directly juxtaposed with a vertically adjustable conveyor, said loading unit comprising ~~and provides~~ at least two vertically superimposed working planes ~~and wherein a set of the working planes in~~

5 ~~each case has~~ each working plane comprising a cyclically ~~operable~~ operable conveyor system for loading or unloading the working planes with ~~loading~~ shaping means which are empty or filled with piece goods.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of ~~loading~~ shaping means filled with piece goods ~~can be~~ are transferred from the first working plane of the loading unit to the vertically adjustable conveyor, wherein ~~the loading~~ said shaping means are arranged in a parallel, juxtaposed manner in the conveying direction, wherein  
5 the total width of all the juxtaposed ~~loading~~ shaping means is the same or slightly smaller than the loading space width and ~~wherein~~ in each case the length of the ~~loading~~ shaping means is slightly smaller than the length of the loading space.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein said transfer means is a ~~[[the]]~~ vertically adjustable conveyor ~~[[has]]~~ comprising at least one sensor system for detecting an actual fill level of the loading space filled with piece goods and ~~wherein~~ a control unit ~~is provided which~~ for vertically ~~matches~~ moving the conveyor to the actual fill  
5 level prior to the transfer of the piece goods into the loading space.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said separating ~~[[unit]]~~ means is connected to ~~[[the]]~~ a vertically adjustable conveyor and has holding means for fixing the piece goods within said loading space, ~~which separates the piece~~

5 ~~goods~~ when the piece goods are separated from the ~~loading~~ shaping means counter to the conveying direction during the movement of the conveyor.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 18, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said separating ~~[[unit]]~~ means is ~~constructed like~~ of a rake-like construction, ~~and its~~ said ~~holding means being~~ prongs, ~~constructed as holding means can be~~ said prongs being lowered within ~~[[the]]~~ said ~~loading~~ shaping means.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the piece goods are sacks filled with~~ said shaping means receives bulk material such as cereals, sugar or sand.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for loading a loading space with piece goods, which preferably have an at least partly deformable piece good surface, which are individually fed by means of a feed device and transferred to a transfer device, through which the piece goods are brought into the interior of the loading space, the method comprising the steps:

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[[ - ]] feeding in the piece goods in an area located outside ~~[[the]]~~ a loading space[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] shaping the piece goods ~~in either~~ individually or ~~grouped form~~ groupwise by the ~~action of at least one~~ an external force acting on the piece goods[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] transferring the piece goods to the transfer unit and horizontally introducing the

10 piece goods into ~~[[the]]~~ said loading space, ~~whilst;~~  
providing a shaping means for receiving piece goods, whereby said shaping means  
~~maintaining~~ compresses the shape of the piece goods during transport ~~by means of at least one~~  
~~loading means;~~ and  
15 ~~[[ - ]] depositing the piece goods within the loading space by separating the piece goods~~  
~~from the loading~~ said shaping means using a separating unit; and  
depositing the piece goods within the loading space.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 21, wherein the  
shaping of the piece goods takes place by mutual sliding together of the piece goods within an  
accumulating conveyor or by ~~means of~~ a handling device directly ~~through~~ depositing the piece  
goods in the shaping means, ~~[[so]]~~ such that the piece goods are compressed at least pairwise  
5 in the conveying direction of the feed unit.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 22, wherein the piece  
goods are shoved together along a piece good row ~~and in this shoved together state are~~  
~~transferred into a shaping means, where~~ such that the piece goods are compressed along at least  
one axis oriented perpendicular to the extension of the piece good row or the piece goods are  
5 ~~brought directly up to the shaping element~~ shaped in an individual manner by a handling device;  
~~preferably an industrial robot.~~

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 23, wherein the transfer of the piece goods into ~~[[the]]~~ said shaping means takes place by sliding or dropping the piece goods into ~~[[the]]~~ said shaping means ~~as a result of their own weight~~ due to weight of the piece goods, the piece goods being compressed within ~~[[the]]~~ said shaping means along the axis of gravitational acceleration or ~~this takes place by means of~~ by a handling system, preferably an industrial robot.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 21, wherein the piece goods are brought into said shaping means, ~~where~~ such that the piece goods are shaped and ~~[[the]]~~ said shaping means are used as loading means ~~with which the piece goods are brought into~~ for transporting the piece goods into the loading space.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 25, wherein a plurality of parallel, juxtaposed piece good-filled loading means are provided ~~[[in]]~~ such a way that ~~their~~ total loading means width corresponds to ~~[[the]]~~ a loading space width and in each case ~~[[the]]~~ length of the individual loading means corresponds to the length of the loading space and the plurality of loading means is introduced horizontally into the loading space until the entire loading means can be positioned within said loading space.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 26, wherein prior to the introduction of the plurality of loading means, ~~there is a vertical orientation of~~ said loading



means is vertically oriented with respect to a deposition surface located within the loading space.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 25, wherein the piece goods are separated from the loading means within the loading space for forming a horizontal layer of solely piece goods within the loading space.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 28, wherein separation takes place by the sliding of the piece goods from the loading means, said loading means being removed from ~~whilst the latter are moved out of the loading space.~~

30. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein said feeding means presses the piece goods together along a piece good row such that the piece goods are compressed along at least one axis oriented perpendicular to the extension of the piece good row.